

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
New Atty. Docket No. P0818
(Old Atty. Docket No.: 067470.0164)

Serial No.:10/718,341
Filed: Nov. 20, 2004

Page 6 of 7

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. The foregoing amendments are responsive to the November 15, 2005 Final Office Action. Applicants respectfully request entry of the requested amendments and reconsideration of the application in view of the following comments.

Response to the Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §§ 102 and 103

Claims 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,671 issued to Nagai et al. The rejection asserts that Nagai allegedly teaches each element of the claims. Claims 50-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,618 issued to Anderson et al.. The rejection asserts that Nagai allegedly teaches each element of the claims except for the evaluation parameter being flyheight, which is allegedly taught by Anderson.

Claims 46- 53 are directed to a method of operating an information storage system in which an evaluation parameter such as the position error signal is measured prior to the head reading any user data. The evaluation parameter is then compared to a predetermined value. If the evaluation parameter exceeds the predetermined value, it is assumed the heads are dirty and a head cleaning is initiated. None of the cited art teaches or suggests checking a parameter in when the heads are in a position where no user data is stored and then using the results of that parameter to initiate a head cleaning. Page 15, lines 15-18 of the original specification discusses that it is desirable to learn if the head needs cleaning and then clean the head before the head is moved to a track where user data is stored. Although Nagai discusses head cleaning, it is directed to use of an error rate. The error rate can only be obtained by reading user data, thus teaching away from a technique of testing for the need for head cleaning at a location where no user data is stored.

In view of the foregoing distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 46-53 are patentably distinguished over the cited art. Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 46-53 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request allowance of new Claims 46-53.

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Serial No.:10/718,841
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Page 7 of 7

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

A one-month extension fee is believed to be due with the filing of this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit Applicant's Deposit Account (No. 50-2733) for that fee and any fees that are currently due, as well as any fees due during the pendency of this application.

Please direct all future communications with regard to this application to the following address.
A power of attorney change is included with this Office Action.

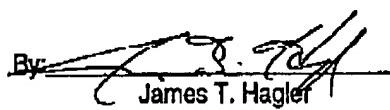
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Certificate of Facsimile

I hereby certify that this correspondence (and any referred to as attached) is being sent via facsimile to 703-872-9306 to the Commissioner for Patents on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2006


By _____
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